

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2009

1. Call to Order: This meeting began at 5:05pm. Present were: Carol Gray, Peggy Roberts, Mary Streeter, Judy Simpson, Harry Brooks and Nonny Burack. Absent: Dorwenda Bynum-Lewis.

2. Minutes: Mary moved and Judy seconded that we adopt the minutes of December 9, 2008 after edits. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

3. Town Meeting Deadlines: The Select Board changed the start of Town Meeting to May 4, 2009. They moved the signing of the warrant back to April 13, 2009 (to be posted on April 14 and mailed to Town Meeting members April 15). Stephanie said at the Select Board meeting that TMCC requested Town Meeting start later. Peggy explained that she had talked to Kate Seaman of the Select Board office about timing between the signing of the warrant and the start of Town Meeting. Peggy said it would be very helpful to have at least two weeks between the signing of the warrant and the start of Town Meeting, hence the request for a May 4 starting date. The deadline for citizen petition zoning articles is February 9, the deadline for other petition articles is March 9, and the deadline for candidate filing papers is February 10. Mary volunteered to send out an email to the Town Meeting list-serve informing people of these deadlines. Judy read the postcard drafted to remind Town Meeting candidates whose terms are up about the filing deadline. The old postcard had the deadline as 5 pm on Feb. 10. Mary said she would double-check to make sure the clerk's office is still open until 5pm. Mary and Judy are coordinating printing up the postcards. Judy will submit a bill for the cost and will send the cards out.

4. Setting Dates for TMCC events: It was decided we will have the Warrant Review at 7 pm in the Town Room of Town Hall on April 21 (with a backup date of April 23). Nonny will check on the room availability for that night. We would like to have the informational forum on April 16 at 7pm at the ACTV studio if ACTV is able to do the forum live with the capability for people to call in with questions. We scheduled the bus tour for the Sunday after the warrant is signed, on Sunday, April 19 from 2-4 pm. Carol moved, and Mary seconded, that we have the bus tour on that date. It was unanimous that we have the tour at this time. Harry will talk to ACTV about filming all these events. Harry will arrange for the bus. These dates will be printed on a label and put on the outside of the first Town Meeting packet. (Mary will call Kevin Eddings to tell him that we incorporated his suggestion about announcing dates. Judy will follow up with Terry Forrest to tell him that we are discussing his suggestion about the running tally visible during Town Meeting appropriation discussions.)

Harry pointed out that the TMCC should be cc'd on the 3/9/09 Town Meeting Checklist so we receive the preliminary list of warrant articles. Carol asked that TMCC be cc'd about meetings such as the one planned for 3/27/09 to discuss the warrant, as well as the 4/24 date. Harry suggested TMCC also be cc'd for the late April draft script. Carol suggested sending a letter to people filing petitions informing them that they may be asked to present their article at the Warrant Review.

5. Progress Reports on Actions Suggested at December Meeting

- **Forum disc for Jones Library:** Harry reported that ACTV delivered the discs to the Jones Library, (i.e., the warrant review and the forum: "Money: Where does

it go? Where should it go?”) Mary will post the availability of these discs on the town website. Judy requested that Harry talk to ACTV about making two copies of each of the TMCC events for spring Town Meeting (i.e., the warrant review, the forum and the bus tour.

- **Timing of Letter to Editor about discs at Jones Library:** To be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Subcommittee on how department budgets are presented at Town Meeting:** Carol moved and Nonny seconded that a letter be sent to the Select Board, cc'd to other relevant town committees, proposing that there be a more egalitarian method of determining the order in which department budgets are presented to Town Meeting during budget discussions, namely that the order of departments be determined randomly by a lottery system. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Carol will draft the letter for review and edits at next week's meeting.
- **Announcement Box in Amherst Bulletin for town Meeting events:** Carried over to next meeting.
- **Return of government announcements to ACTV Channel 17:** Harry said the reason that the town government meetings weren't on the scroll on Channel 17 was because they had a problem, which is now corrected so the government meetings will now be posted. Mary asked that TMCC members view and provide feedback on the TMCC section of the town website.

6. New Business: Carol moved and Nonny seconded that TMCC draft an article proposing that the Financial Committee be elected rather than appointed and that TMCC review this article to consider proposing at a Town Meeting. There was discussion that if TMCC were to sponsor an article like this, then it might be more prudent to have it on the Fall Town Meeting since there is less happening at that time. The discussion included the idea of having Town Counsel look at anything that TMCC might propose. The motion passed with 5 in favor (Harry, Nonny, Judy, Mary, and Carol) and 1 against (Peggy).

7. Scheduling of TMCC Meetings: The next TMCC meeting will be Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 5pm-7pm. Nonny will book the meeting room and let us know.

8. Adjournment: Nonny moved, and Harry seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

Documents Distributed at the meeting:

1. Agenda for today's meeting.
2. Minutes from December 9, 2008.
3. 2009 Annual Town Meeting Checklist

Carol Gray, Secretary